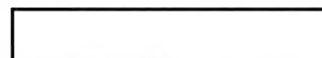


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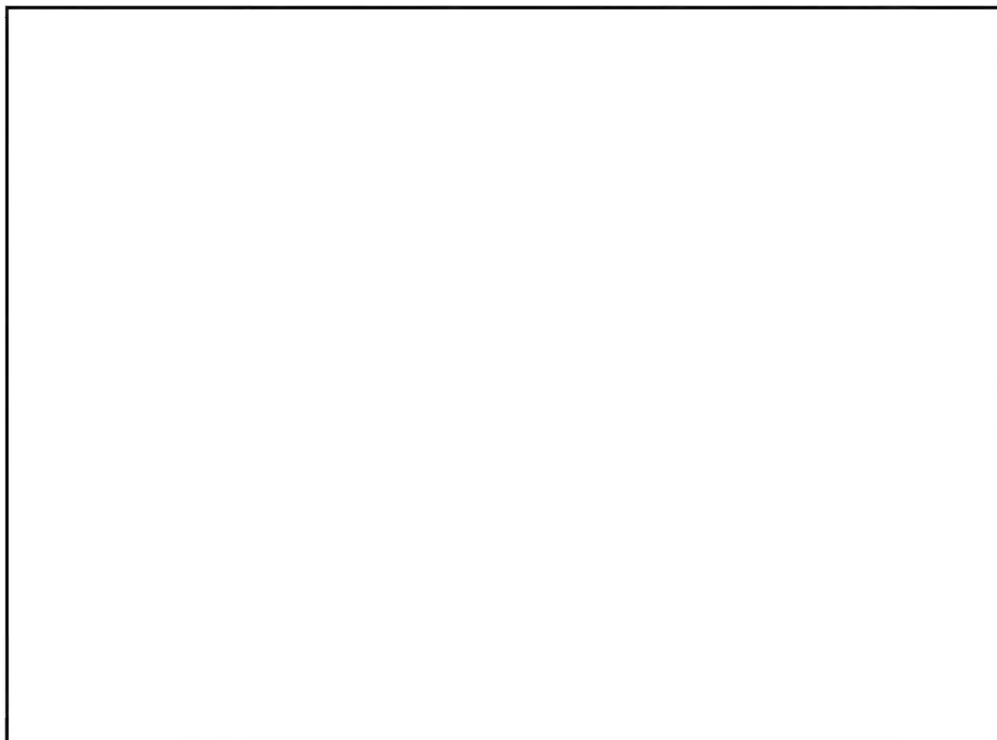


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# **CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

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AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 21 Dec 79 REVIEWER:

## **OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**



State Dept. review completed

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## CONTENTS

25X1A

### 1. EDEN RECALLS PARLIAMENT

25X1

### 3. SOVIET BLOC MILITARY LEAVES REPORTED CANCELED

25X1A

25X1A

### 4. LEBANESE CHRISTIANS FEAR NASR SUEZ VICTORY WOULD INCITE MOSLEM FANATICISM

25X1

### 6. MOVE TOWARD GREATER LIBERALISM CONTINUES IN HUNGARY


25X1A

25X1

25X1A

## 1. EDEN RECALLS PARLIAMENT

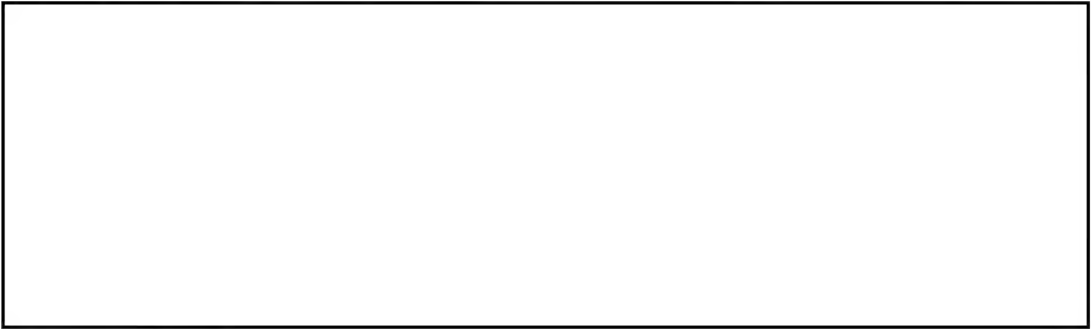
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Prime Minister Eden has called Parliament into special session on 12 September to seek renewed support in the Suez crisis in view of heavy criticism

of the government's handling of the situation. Labor leader Gaitskell's demand of 31 August for a special session was rejected by Eden, drawing criticism even from the London Times, which alone had been consistent in supporting the government's actions on the Suez issue.

The cabinet presumably believes that Nasr will reject the London conference proposals and that the Cairo talks will be over by the time Parliament convenes.



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### 3. SOVIET BLOC MILITARY LEAVES REPORTED CANCELED

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Reports of Communist origin circulating in East Berlin assert that military leaves in the Soviet bloc have been canceled because of the Suez crisis, according to the press.

The action was said to have been taken since Britain and France started their current military build-up on Cyprus.

#### Comment

If true, such an action would indicate an increase in Soviet concern over the Suez dispute. These reports may be designed to impress on the British and French the possibility of direct Soviet intervention. There are no other indications of Soviet offers to Egypt beyond "volunteers" and economic and military aid.

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**4. LEBANESE CHRISTIANS FEAR NASR SUEZ VICTORY  
WOULD INCITE MOSLEM FANATICISM**

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Christian leaders in Lebanon have expressed their concern to the American embassy in Beirut on the future of Christians in Lebanon and throughout the Arab states if Egyptian president Nasr attains a victory in the Suez dispute and remains in power. They said that Nasr's success already had stimulated dormant Moslem determination to subjugate the Christians, and expressed the hope that there would be no peaceful solution of the Suez crisis. They stated that "Moslem fanaticism, intolerance, and ambition" toward Middle Eastern Christians and the West would subside for 30 or 40 years if Egypt were defeated militarily, but conceded that a clash might have bloody consequences for the Christian minority in Egypt.

**Comment**

The Christian population, dominant in Lebanon, has traditionally feared that Lebanon would be "swallowed up" by the surrounding Arab states. The rise of Nasr and the accompanying spurt of Arab nationalism increased these fears.

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**6. MOVE TOWARD GREATER LIBERALISM CONTINUES  
IN HUNGARY**

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[REDACTED]

According to the American legation in Budapest, the present Hungarian regime's control of the political situation now appears to be less effective than Nagy's control in 1953 and 1954. The legation comments that events since Rakosi's resignation in July have moved faster and more favorably than most observers anticipated at the time. It notes, however, that conflict continues between those wishing to cushion the effect of the Soviet 20th Party Congress in Hungary and those willing or wishing to permit a freer development of ideological thought and political practice. [REDACTED]

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**Comment**

Recent party statements dealing with political, cultural and economic policy indicate that the compromise decisions enunciated in the mid-July central committee resolution are being modified in order to conform more to the demands of the "moderate" party elements and intellectuals who have been pressing for more liberal internal policies.

The implementation of more liberal policies would probably at least temporarily satisfy large numbers of the party moderates, but would probably increase dissatisfaction among the more doctrinaire Communists, including newly appointed party first secretary Gero.

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